Claims

What is claimed is:

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- 1. A method comprising steps of:
- (a) positioning a data surface adjacent a head mounted onto an actuator; and
- (b) determining a track range for the surface partly based on several lateral positions sensed while urging the actuator laterally against a stop.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 in which the positioning step (a) includes steps of:
 - (a1) simultaneously writing a co-rotatable stack of several discs in a multi-disc writer; and
- (a2) removing a selected one of the several discs from the co-rotating
 stack, the selected disc including the data surface.
 - 3. The method of claim 1 in which the positioning step (a) includes a step (a1) of mounting a disc that includes the data surface onto a spindle assembly, the data surface containing a prewritten servo pattern (PSP).
 - 4. The method of claim 1 in which the positioning step (a) includes a step (a1) of positioning the actuator and the head relative to the data surface so that system tracks on the surface are written with a head/track skew of about 0°.

- 5. The method of claim 1 in which the determining step (b) includes a step (b1) of reading from a lowest-numbered track that the stop permits the head to access.
- 5 6. The method of claim 5 in which the determining step (b) further includes a step (b1) of designating a guardband that includes the lowest-numbered track that the stop permits the head to access, the guardband being adjacent to one side of the track range for the surface.

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- 7. The method of claim 1 in which the determining step (b) includes a step (b1) of designating a track range limit that is based on the several lateral positions and on a predetermined design margin wider than one track, the margin derived from a known mechanical tolerance.
- 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step (c) of deriving another surface's track range partly based on the several lateral positions sensed in the determining step (b).

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- 9. The method of claim 1 in which the determining step (b) includes a step (b1) of biasing an arm of the actuator against the stop.
- 10. A method comprising a step (a) of urging an actuator against a stop25 while identifying each of several tracks using a head supported by the actuator.

- 11. The method of claim 10 in which the urging step (a) includes a step (a1) of reading from a highest-numbered track that the stop permits the head to access fully.
- 5 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising a step (b) of selecting a most extreme one of the track identifications from the urging step (a).
- The method of claim 10, further comprising a step (b) of using the
 track identifications from the urging step (a) to estimate an offset
 between a center of the several tracks and a center of rotation of the
 several tracks.
- The method of claim 10, further comprising a step (b) of determining
 a nominal track range limit partly based on the track identifications
 from the urging step (a).
- The method of claim 10 in which the positioning step (a) includes a step (a1) of mounting a disc that onto a spindle assembly, the disc containing a prewritten servo pattern (PSP) including the several tracks.
 - 16. The method of claim 10 in which the positioning step (a) includes steps of:
- 25 (a1) rigidly supporting the stop with a base; and
 - (a2) rotatably mounting the actuator and a disc containing the tracks onto the base.

- 17. The method of claim 10, further including a prior step of designating a system track band that includes a block of several annular system tracks and at least one guardband track on each side of the block.
- 5 18. The method of claim 10, further including a prior step of designating a system track band that includes a block of several annular system tracks at a position where a head/track skew is about 0°.
- 19. A device containing a multitude of data storage tracks, comprising:
 10 an actuator supporting a head that has a range of motion;
 a stop defining a limit on the head's range of motion such that
 several of the tracks are each only partly accessible within the head's range of motion; and
 a controller configured to use the stop to designate a guardband that
 includes the several partly-accessible tracks.
 - 20. The device of claim 19 in which the guardband further includes several adjacent, fully-accessible tracks.
- 20 21. The device of claim 19 in which the controller is further configured to execute servo code that prevents any host command from accessing any tracks within the designated guardband.
- The device of claim 19 further comprising a plurality of discs written
 ex situ, each of the discs including a data surface that contains some
 of the several partly-accessible tracks.